As PA transitions to the Common Core Standards, focus on the defined content in the PA Academic Standards should continue, as well as emphasis on areas derived from Common Core.

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| **Continued Emphasis** | **Specific Common Core Emphasis** |
| Comprehension Skills  (Fiction and Non-Fiction) | * Increasing reading of non-fiction texts (goal of 50% @ end of Grade 4) (CC.2.R.I.2) (Introduction to ELA: Key Design Considerations) * Moving beyond identification of literary elements and text features to describing/comparing/contrasting between two texts (CC.2.R.L.9) (CC.2.R.I.5) * Demonstrating comprehension through oral/written responses (CC.2.SL.1) (CC.2.W.7) |
| Vocabulary Development | * Using sentence level context clues (CC.1.L.4.a) * Emphasizing content words, multiple-meaning words, compound words, word relationships, shades of meaning among closely related verbs and adjectives (CC.2.L.5.b) * Making real life connections between words and their use (CC.2.L.5.a) * Using glossaries and beginning dictionaries (print/digital) (CC.2.L.4.e) |
| Word Recognition Skills | * Emphasizing long/short vowels (one/two syllable words), vowel teams, common affixes, grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words (CC.2.R.F.3) |
| Fluency | * Reading proficiently, with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension (CC.2.R.F.4) (CC.2.R.F.4.a) |
| Types of Writing  Quality of Writing | * Writing everyday in response to learning * Participating in shared research and writing projects (CC.2.W.7) * Writing opinion pieces to including topic, opinion, and supporting reasons, and a conclusion (CC.2.W.1) |
| Research | * Modeling of the research process by teacher (CC.2.W.7) * Reading several books on a single topic to produce a report (CC.2.W.7) * Recording science observations (CC.2.W.7) |
| Speaking and Listening | * Establishing agreed-upon rules for discussions (CC.2.S.L.1) * Collaborating with peers in small/large learning groups about Grade 2 topics and texts (CC.2.SL.1) * Emphasizing students’ oral responses to deepen understanding of a topic or issue (CC.2.SL.1) |
| Conventions of Standard English | Foundational grammar should be taught in the context of reading, writing, and speaking.   * Emphasizing collective nouns, irregular plural nouns, reflexive pronouns, irregular verb tenses, adjectives, adverbs, simple and compound sentences (CC.2.L.1) (a-f) * Emphasizing commas (letters), apostrophes (contractions/possessives), capitalization (holidays, product names, geographic names) (CC.2.L.2) (a-e) |
| Technology Literacy | * Using a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing (CC.2.W.6) |